

## V. HERBACEOUS VEGETATION

### V.A.5.N.c. Medium-tall sod temperate or subpolar grassland

#### V.A.5.N.c.103. *DACTYLIS GLOMERATA*–*RUMEX ACETOSELLA* HERBACEOUS ALLIANCE

Orchard Grass–Sheep-sorrel Herbaceous Alliance

Hopewell Furnace name: [Grassland](#)

**Concept:** This broadly defined alliance includes pasture and post-agricultural fields, and is largely composed of nonnative grasses and herbs (generally of European origin). Physiognomically, these grasslands are generally comprised of mid-height (1-3 feet tall) grasses and forbs, with occasional scattered shrubs. Species composition varies from site to site, depending on land-use history, and perhaps soil type, but in general, this vegetation is quite wide-ranging in northeastern and midwestern states, and possibly at higher elevations in the southeastern states. In addition to *Dactylis glomerata* and *Rumex acetosella* these grassy fields are characterized by *Symphyotrichum* spp. (including *Symphyotrichum lateriflorum* (= *Aster lateriflorus*) and *Symphyotrichum novae-angliae* (= *Aster novae-angliae*)), *Rudbeckia hirta*, *Pteridium aquilinum*, *Chenopodium album*, *Asclepias syriaca*, *Andropogon virginicus*, *Schizachyrium scoparium*, *Phytolacca americana*, *Phleum pratense*, *Poa pratensis*, *Poa compressa*, *Elymus repens* (= *Agropyron repens*), *Bromus inermis*, *Solidago* spp. (including *Solidago rugosa*, *Solidago nemoralis*, *Solidago juncea*, *Solidago canadensis*, *Solidago altissima*), *Euthamia graminifolia*, *Oenothera biennis*, *Potentilla simplex*, *Daucus carota*, *Ambrosia artemisiifolia*, *Hieracium* spp., *Taraxacum officinale*, *Vicia cracca*, *Trifolium* spp., and many others. Communities of this alliance occur throughout the northeastern United States and beyond.

**Comments:** Need to clarify the distribution and application of *Lolium* (*arundinaceum*, *pratense*) Herbaceous Alliance (A.1213) and *Dactylis glomerata*–*Rumex acetosella* Cultivated Herbaceous Alliance (A.1190). Is *Dactylis* favored to the north, and *Festuca* to the south?

**Range:** This alliance is found in Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, New York, Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Delaware, Maryland, West Virginia, and Virginia.

**States/Provinces:** CT DE MA MD ME NH NJ NY PA RI TN VA VT WV

**References:**

**Authors:** ECS, RW, East

**Identifier:** A.1190